



**Los Altos History Commission and Los Altos History Museum  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual Margaret Thompson Historical Essay Contest  
For 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

## **2012 Theme: Los Altos – 60 Years from Now!**

### **Background:**

On December 1, 2012, the City of Los Altos will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation. Much has changed over the past 60 years. We have seen our small rural town become a thriving metropolis. Schools and homes have been built all over the city. Our downtown Main Street has become a prosperous community of restaurants, shops, businesses and places for gathering with family and friends. While the Southern Pacific Railroad no longer travels through our town, Caltrain, buses, and freeways are only a short distance away. The City of Los Altos is planning several events to celebrate this special anniversary ending with a Gala Evening planned for Saturday, December 1, 2012.

As we become more globally conscious and technologically advanced, we wonder “what will Los Altos look like in 60 more years”--in 2072! Can you imagine what transportation might look like? What will your school or classroom look like? Will we still go to grocery stores for our food supplies? Will there still be a Main Street in Los Altos? What will businesses and restaurants look like?

### **Writing Prompt:**

Take a journey into the future and describe a specific place...your school, your classroom, your house, your place of business, your church or synagogue, library, or your history museum. Think about the places in Los Altos where you live, shop, go to school, get your books, play sports, etc. Choose one place about which to write.

Write an essay about a specific place in Los Altos in which you imagine what that place will be like in 60 years.

- What will it look like?
- What will you do there?
- Describe what it would be like to visit this place.
- Paint a picture with words.
- Be creative and use your imagination.
- Draw a picture, if you wish, to accompany your essay.

### **Essay Instructions:**

**Please print your full name, address, phone number, school name, grade, and teacher's name on the top left side of the first page. Essays should be no more than 300 words and given to your teacher by March 9.**

### **Win Cash Prizes**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$50    2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$30    3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$20  
3 winners per grade level!**